

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 6, 2007. Claims 2-10 and 12-15 are presented for examination, of which Claims 4 and 12 are in independent form. Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-14 have been amended as to matters of form only, to ensure consistency of terminology, and/or correct claim dependency. Claim 15 has been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to conform the Summary of Invention section to the amended claims.

The Abstract was objected to on the ground that "The numbers to the devices are misnumbered." Applicant has carefully reviewed the Abstract and respectfully submits that there is no misnumbering of any devices therein. If the Examiner continues to object to the Abstract, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner explain exactly which devices he believes to be misnumbered so that Applicant can appropriately respond.

Claim 1 was objected to based on the informalities noted on page 2 of the Office Action. Cancellation of Claim 1 renders this objection moot.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that Claims 4-7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended each of Claims 4 and 12 into independent form, and consequently these claims are seen to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 1-3, 8, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,163,023 (Watanabe) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0001562 (Orava et al.). Claims 1 and 11 have been cancelled, and the remaining rejected claims depend from Claim 4 or 12, which are allowable for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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